

23 December 1950

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MEMORANDUM FOR: DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR ADMINISTRATION

SUBJECT: Coordination of Covert Operations
and Administration

1. You requested my comments on the question of coordinating administrative support for covert operations in the light of Mr. Dulles' assumption of the post of Deputy Director of Plans. If my original submission of 14 December has any validity, the problem is not radically altered by Mr. Dulles' appointment and may, to some extent, be simplified in operation.

2. I recommend suggesting to Mr. Dulles the establishment of an Administrative Coordination Unit to function much as I suggested in my earlier paper. I would also recommend alteration in the permanent membership. Instead of representatives from OSO and OPC, I suggest asking Mr. Dulles to appoint a Special Assistant similar to your Special Assistant for Covert Operations. These two, with the Recorder, would be the permanent staff of the Unit, and again there might be permanent representation to the Unit from the Comptroller's office, the Law Division and possibly Security. It would then be the responsibility of the two Special Assistants to see that there was proper representation from their respective organizations to consider each problem before the Unit. This would leave the Unit without a Chairman, but under the circumstances I see no fault in this.

3. From our experience with the old Covert Coordinating Committee, once this Unit gets under way better than 90% of the matters before it will be settled by unanimous agreement. The others will have to be resolved at a higher level anyway and could not be resolved by the Chairman unless that Chairman were the Deputy Director, CIA. The Recorder could call the meetings and do the necessary following up on agreed on plans. In so far as the meetings are concerned, the Chairman should not be a necessity.

4. I believe the Unit so set up would be the most flexible and efficient mechanic for achieving coordination at the working level and would provide an opportunity for ready reference to higher authorities and for keeping such higher authorities properly informed.

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